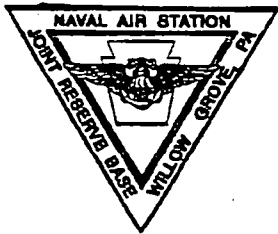


## Department of Defense



### Installation Restoration Program Update Status of Investigation & Clean-up

**Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base  
Air Force Reserve Station  
Willow Grove, Pennsylvania**

**Fact Sheet No. 3  
December 1997**

#### INTRODUCTION

This is the third in a series of fact sheets to inform the public and community leaders of environmental activities at the Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base (NASJRB) and Air Force Reserve Station (ARS), Willow Grove, Pennsylvania. This fact sheet provides information about the Navy's and Air Force's Installation Restoration Program (IRP). The purpose of the IRP is to identify and clean up former waste disposal sites at Department of Defense installations. The status of environmental investigations and clean-up actions and other IRP developments at NASJRB and Air Force Reserve Station, Willow Grove are summarized below.

#### FORMATION OF RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD (RAB)

Based on joint guidelines issued by the Department of Defense and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), a RAB

has been established at NASJRB and ARS, Willow Grove to promote public involvement in environmental clean-up activities. The RAB replaces the previous Technical Review Committee (TRC), incorporating many of the same members. The TRC was a group composed of Navy and Air Force representatives, their consultants, the Environmental Protection Agency, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) and representatives of local government who met periodically to discuss facility environmental developments. The difference between the RAB and the TRC is the participation by community residents, business people, and representatives of civic groups. The RAB was formed to bring together community members who reflect the diverse interests of the local community to promote direct two-way communication between the local community and the facility.

Since being convened in August 1996, the RAB has met five times (generally quarterly) to receive updates on Navy and Air Force IRP

activities. RAB meetings, which are held at the facility, are open to the public. The next scheduled meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 14, 1998 at 6:00 p.m. in building 1 at NASJRB Willow Grove. Community members are encouraged to attend.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITY**

The Navy and Air Force have several IRP sites with activities underway in the past year. Principal Navy sites include NAS Site 1 - Privet Road Compound (an area formerly use as a waste handling and transfer station), Site 2 - Antenna Field Landfill (an area formerly used to dispose of solid waste), Site 3 - Ninth Street Landfill (an area formerly used to dispose of solid waste and conduct salvage yard operations), Site 5 - Fire Training Area (a gravel-covered area where flammable liquids were stored in drums and later burned as part of fire training exercises), and Site 10 - Navy Fuel Farm (a fuel spill area). The Navy also conducted a limited Site Investigation near the Tinius Olsen Machine Company to determine if contaminants identified on their property were migrating onto the Navy's property. Principal Air Force sites include ARS Site 1 - Petroleum, Oil and Lubricants (POL) Area (a fuel spill and sludge disposal area), and ARS Site 4 - Washrack Area (an aircraft washing facility where paint stripping has been performed in the past).

### **Phase II Remedial Investigation (RI)**

The Navy conducted Phase II RI field activities in the spring and summer of 1997 at NAS Sites 1, 2, 3, and 5. The goal of the Phase II RI was to fill data gaps identified from previous investigations and collect additional information needed to perform human health and ecological risk assessment as part of the Navy's IRP for

these sites. Field work was completed in August and an overview of investigation activities was presented to the RAB on September 10, 1997.

The Phase II RI report (draft) will be available for review by the RAB in the upcoming months, and a summary of results will be given to RAB members at an upcoming meeting.

### **Navy Fuel Farm (NAS Site 10)**

The Navy completed a 2-year pilot-scale study for clean-up of fuel-related compounds in the soil and groundwater at the site. The results of the pilot-scale study were used to design and build a full-scale clean-up system consisting of a contaminant collection network, vacuum pumps to move contaminated liquids and vapor, and a collection system to capture the contaminants for disposal. The full-scale clean-up system is currently in operation.

The goal of the clean up at the Navy Fuel Farm is to remove spilled fuel from the soil and groundwater in the vicinity of the Navy Fuel Farm site to reduce potential risks to people and the environment.

### **Tinius Olsen Investigation**

Parallel to a PADEP investigation of a suspected gasoline spill near the air station, the Navy planned and performed a limited investigation of groundwater and soils on Navy property near the Tinius Olsen Manufacturing facility. The results of this limited investigation indicate that the source of contamination, identified previously in the Tinius Olsen well, is unrelated to any past or present Navy activities. As a result, no further investigations are planned by the Navy for this area.

### **Washrack Area Site (ARS Site 4)**

Based on results from previous investigations at and near the Washrack Area, residual cleaning solvents such as trichloroethene (TCE) may exist in the soil and groundwater. As a result, the Air Force developed and has begun to implement a TCE source identification study in the area. Field investigations, including monitoring well installation and groundwater monitoring, began in November 1997.

### **Air Force POL Area (ARS Site 1)**

The Air Force is moving ahead with implementation of on-base testing and evaluation of methods to remove any oil which is floating on the groundwater and clean up of oily soils at the POL Area. Pilot-scale tests to evaluate the effectiveness of groundwater extraction and treatment, combined with soil vapor extraction are expected to be completed by the early summer of 1998. Based on the results of the pilot-scale investigation, design and construction of a full-scale extraction and treatment system will be considered.

### **UPCOMING ACTIVITIES**

- Results, analyses, and conclusions from the Navy's Phase II RI will be presented and discussed at a future RAB meeting. Based on the results of the Phase II RI, it is anticipated that each of the 4 study sites will proceed to either a Feasibility Study (FS) or be recommended for No Further Action (NFA). FSs are documents that are intended to evaluate different clean-up technologies which will ultimately lead to development of a preferred clean-up plan for a particular hazardous waste site. If a NFA recommendation is made at a study area, that would indicate that the site does not

pose significant risk to human health or the environment.

- The Navy will continue operation, evaluation, and optimization of active remediation at NAS Site 10.
- The Air Force will be reassessing site conditions at the Washrack Area through its program of groundwater and soil sampling currently underway. The pilot-scale groundwater extraction/soil vapor extraction system will be operated at the POL Area site to evaluate system effectiveness.
- The Draft Community Relations Plan for NASJRB and ARS Willow Grove Pennsylvania, submitted for RAB review earlier this year, has been updated and will be issued in December 1997. Comments from the Navy, Air Force and Horsham Township have been incorporated.

Community interest in environmental restoration at NASJRB and ARS, Willow Grove is growing. The Navy and Air Force consider this interest a positive statement with regards to the role the air station plays in the local community. Through the RAB, it has been possible to engage interested community members in the discussions regarding environmental issues at the air station. In order to inform and thereby involve even more interested community members, this and subsequent fact sheets will be prepared to disseminate the news of IRP activities at NASJRB and ARS, Willow Grove.

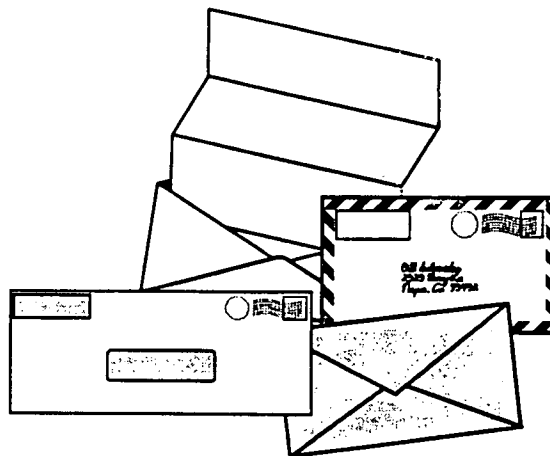
As always, the Navy's and Air Force's primary concern is the protection of the health and welfare of our people and our neighbors. We will continue to keep you informed of progress, and we encourage you to continue active interest

and participation in our efforts to safeguard our shared environment.

## POINTS OF CONTACT

For more information regarding the RAB, contact Jim Edmond of the NASJRB Willow Grove Environmental Office. He can be reached at (215) 443-6939. The Navy point of contact for all other environmental issues regarding the NASJRB IR program is Jim Colter, of the Northern Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, at (610) 595-0567, extension 163.

The Air Force point of contact is Charanjit Gill. He can be reached at (215) 443-1105. The Air Force Public Affairs Office contact person is Major Marge McGlinn at (215) 443-1062.



## FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

If you did not receive this fact sheet in the mail and wish to be placed on the mailing list for future information pertaining to this base, please fill out, detach, and mail this form to

Public Affairs Officer  
NASJRB, Code 005  
Willow Grove, Pennsylvania 19090-5010

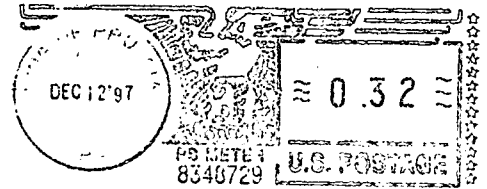
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